

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A microscope comprising:
 - an optical path;
 - a magazine having a plurality of receiving areas;
 - a plurality of ~~assemblies~~ filters, each of said plurality of ~~assemblies~~ filters being accommodated by a respective one of said plurality of receiving areas for selective positioning in said optical path by operation of said magazine;
 - a plurality of transponders, each of said plurality of filters being associated one with ~~each one~~ one of said plurality of ~~assemblies~~ transponders, wherein each of said plurality of transponders includes stored data; and
 - a reader unit for reading said stored data of a transponder associated with ~~an assembly~~ a filter positioned in said optical path; and
 - an electronically operated shutter for selectively blocking said optical path, said shutter being operated based on said data read by said reader unit, wherein said shutter can only be opened once a correct filter is in said optical path.
2. (original) The microscope according to Claim 1, further comprising a writer unit for writing data into any one of said plurality of transponders.
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (original) The microscope according to Claim 1, further comprising a motor connected to said magazine for moving said magazine.

6. (original) The microscope according to Claim 1, further comprising an electronic control unit connected to said reader unit for controlling processes as a function of said data read by said reader unit.

7. (canceled)

8. (original) The microscope according to Claim 1, wherein said microscope is designed for fluorescence measurements.

9. (original) The microscope according to Claim 1, wherein said microscope is a stereomicroscope.

10. (currently amended) ~~An assembly adapted to be held by a~~ A filter magazine of for use in
a microscope having a reader unit for reading data stored in a transponder, said ~~assembly~~
magazine comprising:

a plurality of receiving areas; and

at least one component filter carrier, each said filter carrier being accommodated
by a respective one of said plurality of receiving areas and carrying at least one filter intended to
be positioned in an optical path of said microscope by operation of said magazine and further
carrying a transponder with which said at least one filter is associated; and

a wherein said transponder located elsewhere on said assembly from said at least
one component stores data indicating characteristics of said at least one filter associated
therewith.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A process for carrying out a selected investigation using a microscope having at least one magazine with receiving areas for respectively accommodating assemblies filters, said magazine enabling a chosen assembly filter to be positioned in an optical path of the microscope, said process comprising the steps of:

providing transponders respectively associated with said assemblies filters, each of said transponders including stored data;

reading said stored data of a transponder associated with ~~an assembly~~ a filter in said optical path; and

providing an electronically operated shutter for selectively blocking said optical path; and

conducting said investigation in accordance with wherein said shutter is operated based on said read data in that said shutter can only be opened once a correct filter is in said optical path.

14. (original) The process according to Claim 13, further comprising the steps of reading reference data corresponding to said selected investigation, comparing said read data with said reference data, and stopping said investigation if said read data does not match said reference data for said selected investigation.

15. (original) The process according to Claim 13, wherein data are written into said transponders by a writer unit.

16. (original) The process according to Claim 13, wherein a fluorescence measurement is carried out.

17. (canceled)

18. (original) The process according to Claim 13, further comprising the step of storing said read data.

19. (original) The process according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of using said read data that have been stored to provide operational data.

20. (original) A computer-executable process comprising the steps of:

reading data provided by a transponder associated with a filter in an optical path of a microscope;

reading filter data from a database, said filter data corresponding to a selected microscopy investigation;

comparing said data provided by said transponder with said filter data; and

opening a shutter in said optical path if said data provided by said transponder match said filter data.

21. (original) A computer-readable storage medium storing computer executable instructions for performing the steps of:

reading data provided by a transponder associated with a filter in an optical path of a microscope;

reading filter data from a database, said filter data corresponding to a selected microscopy investigation;

comparing said data provided by said transponder with said filter data; and

opening a shutter in said optical path if said data provided by said transponder match said filter data.